

Applicant : Blackburn, et al.
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Attorney's Docket No.: 16707-002001

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) A removable insert for footwear consisting of:
a flat single stainless steel sheet having a uniform thickness of approximately 0.020-0.025 inches;

a non-uniform polyurethane layer, shaped to the contour of the bottom of a foot and including orthotic supports and a metatarsal support region therein, disposed completely over the single stainless steel sheet; and

an air and water permeable membrane secured to the molded polyurethane layer.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The insert of claim 10, wherein the polyurethane layer is further characterized by a lip that extends upwardly and outwardly relative to the single stainless steel sheet.

13. (Previously Presented) The insert of claim 12, wherein the polyurethane layer forms a bottom perimeter that is approximately equal to a perimeter of the single stainless steel sheet.

14-20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) An exactly three-layered insert configured to be removably placed into footwear, the insert consisting of:

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a single, flat, planar stainless steel sheet having a uniform thickness between 0.020 and 0.025 inches;

a non-uniform cushion layer, shaped to the contour of the bottom of a foot and including orthotic supports and a lip portion that extends upwardly and outwardly relative to a perimeter of the single stainless steel sheet, over which the cushion layer is disposed; and

a membrane secured to the cushion layer.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) The insert of claim 21, wherein the cushion layer has a bottom perimeter that is approximately equal to a the perimeter over of the single stainless steel sheet, and a metatarsal support region integrated with the cushion layer.

24. (Currently Amended) A three-layer protective, orthotic device for a shoe that is configured to be removably inserted therein, the three layers comprising a protective layer means, an orthotic layer means, and a membrane layer means, each disposed, respectively, over the previous layer, wherein:

the protective layer means consists of a flat piece of stainless ~~spring~~-steel of a uniform thickness between 0.020 and 0.025 inches and stamped in the shape of a foot; and

the orthotic layer means consists of a variable thickness polyurethane having a shape configured to provide support to the bottom of a foot including a metatarsal support region, and a an outwardly extending lip portion around the perimeter of the orthotic layer which is configured to support the sides of a foot positioned on the protective, orthotic device.